

Requests Updates to Hurricane Response Plans to Factor in Oil Disaster
June 30, 2010

WASHINGTON, DC — Today, U.S. Congressman Charlie Melancon (LA-03) asked the Coast Guard and Federal Emergency Management Agency to advise what emergency management plans were in place in the event a tropical storm or hurricane collides with the oil slick in the Gulf of Mexico. Recently, Tropical Storm Alex developed into the first named storm of the 2010 Atlantic Hurricane Season, which lasts from June 1 to December 1.

In a letter to FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate and National Incident Commander Admiral Thad Allen, Congressman Melancon noted, **“The additional environmental damage and health hazards caused by oil-contaminated flood water could be devastating to our region.”**

Congressman Melancon continued, **“In light of the risks caused by a potential storm, I ask that the Coast Guard provide information on the effects that severe weather may have on containment efforts, as well as how the Coast Guard is planning to respond to this situation.**

“In addition, I ask that FEMA disclose what procedures it has in place to manage such an emergency, as well as how the agency is planning...to address the environmental and health effects of an oil-contaminated flood.”

Congressman Melancon concluded, **“The oil spill has already cost too many Louisiana families their jobs, and now, the possibility of a hurricane poses an increased threat to their livelihoods, health and homes. I urge you to do everything in your power to mitigate the harm of a potential storm.”**

Click [here](#) to read the letter.

Congressman Melancon represents in Congress the areas of coastal Louisiana most directly affected by the oil leak, including Plaquemines, St. Bernard, Terrebonne, Lafourche, St. Mary and southern Jefferson Parishes. The Deepwater Horizon platform was located 50 miles off the coast of Louisiana’s Third Congressional District.

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